

# FLORIDA GOLF TOUR – NOVEMBER 2011



I have been fortunate enough to play a lot of golf throughout the USA, but there is no question of doubt that my recent return back from Florida has to be my top of the list.

My itinerary was as follows:

**Day 1: Flights: British Airways Gatwick to Orlando (Economy)**

2 nights staying at Bay Hill Golf and Lodge based in twin rooms overlooking the golf course including breakfast

**Day 2: 1 round of golf at Orange County National Golf Club (The Panther Course.)**

<http://www.ocngolf.com/golf-course/panther-lake-course-information>

Panther Lake is everything you could want in a golf course. Playing over rolling meadows, through native pines, around and over wetlands, lakes, and up and down elevation changes of up to 60 feet, it is first and foremost a visual delight, reminding you that natural beauty is one of the main reasons you play golf and a major factor in deciding which course to play.

**Day 3: 1 round of golf at Bay Hill Golf Club (Challenger Champion Course)**

<http://www.bayhill.com/Home-1.html>

For the golf enthusiast, the chance to play golf at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge in Florida is something extraordinary. The Bay Hill course is one of the finest courses in the country and is also a setting of great tradition and respect for legendary golfer, Arnold Palmer. I was fortunate enough to shake hands with Mr Palmer and his wife before sitting down to well presented breakfast provided by the lodge before teeing off on an amazing yet challenging golf course.

We then drove ourselves from Orlando to Tampa which took no longer than 1 hour where we stayed a further 6 nights at the Sheraton Riverwalk Tampa Hotel based in a double room including breakfast.

If I was brutally honest I would had preferred a hotel closer to Westshore Boulevard where you will find two excellent shopping malls particularly International Plaza which has 200 speciality shops and 16 restaurants to pick from). This is where most of my evening where spent.

**Day 4: 1 round of golf at Worldwoods Golf Club (Pine Barrens Course)**

<http://www.worldwoods.com/>

The Pine Barrens Course is ranked #26 by golf week "Americas Best Modern Course". It is a visually stunning blend of native terrain and golf course design.

Its names for the many Pine trees that line its length, the acclaimed layout is sculpted from an expansive pine forest with surprising and dramatic changes in elevation.



### **Day 5: Day off:**

This was spent mostly around the pool or taking advantage of the many sales in the shopping malls, you can guarantee to bag a bargain.

### **Day 6: Innisbrook Golf Club (Copperhead course)**

<http://www.innisbrookgolfresort.com/>

A favorite among PGA TOUR professionals, our Copperhead Course is the most recognizable of Innisbrook's four Tampa, Florida courses. After all, it plays host to the world's greatest golfers during the PGA TOUR's annual visit to the resort for the Transitions Championship. Tree-lined fairways and rolling terrain define the course – a lengthy challenge for even the longest hitters at more than 7,300 yards. Striking in beauty and challenge, the surrounding lakes and ponds are home to abundant wildlife, including fox squirrels, bald eagles, alligators, blue herons, and many other types of water fowl. With the fairways and greens mostly free of residences, Copperhead provides the opportunity to enjoy golf the way nature intended.



### **Day 7: Black Diamond Golf Club: (Quarry Course)**

<http://www.blackdiamondranch.com/Default.aspx?p=DynamicModule&PageId=281471&ssi=d=157042&vnf=1>

The stunning Quarry Course, the first at Black Diamond, is consistently recognized as one of America's greatest. While the list of awards and accolades is impressive, it could never compare to the experience of playing it. Beginning with the elevated tee shot on the 424-yard first hole, the front nine redefines golf in Florida.

You'll experience dramatic elevation changes, classic bunkering, and fairways framed with thousands of beautiful live oaks, dogwoods, myrtles, and magnolias. While it's difficult to choose the most outstanding hole on the front nine, perhaps the two par 5's, the fifth and ninth best exemplify the beautiful, but challenging experience that awaits you.



The Quarry Course at Black Diamond. Simply breathtaking. The 14th, 15th and 16th holes are carved over and around canyon walls and combine challenging shot making opportunities with more awesome views. This magical stretch of holes, called by writer Dan Jenkins "the best five consecutive holes of golf anywhere in the world" ends with the 218-yard par-3 17th. The 17th drops down into the smaller quarry to a green guarded left and rear by 30-foot high limestone cliffs, and it looks like it's from another world another time.

#### Day 8: TPC Tampa Bay

TPC Tampa Bay was designed for not only to challenge the top golfers of the world, but also provide a challenging and fun experience for players of all abilities. The course gave the players the opportunity to play well within their game , with a variety of teeing areas that allow the course to be played from 5,036 yards from the forward tees to 6,898 yards from the Championship tees.

The course is routed around natural wetlands, cypress heads and numerous ponds and lagoons, which are home to an abundance of wildlife. Deer, foxes, otters, armadillos, alligators, egrets, storks, cranes, blue heron and eagles all inhabit on the course.

This was a great finishing course to end a perfect week of golf.

**Day 9: British Airways flight back from Tampa to Gatwick**

I had a full day to pick up any last minute bargains I hadn't already managed to buy.

If you would like to know how I got on or how much a tour such as this would cost then please don't hesitate to contact me 01708 220800 or my email

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Thanks for your time and I look forward to speaking with you soon

**Trevor Prior**